

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OES-03 EB-07 FEA-01 INT-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 AS-01 /053 W

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R 291610Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5434

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1520

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IT, AO

SUBJ: OIL AND ANGOLA

REF: ROME 785 (NOTAL)

1. JANUARY 29 NEWSPAPERS CARRY DATELINED KINSHASA
CITING A PRESS RELEASE SIGNED BY CABINDA LIBERATION FRONT
(FLEC) SECRETARY LUIGI (LUIZI?) BALLU DENOUNCING ALLEGED
AGREEMENT BETWEEN ITALIAN NATIONAL HYDROCARBONS AGENCY
ENI AND MPLA OFFICIALS RELATING TO ENI EXPLOITATION OF
CABINDA'S OIL FIELDS. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN PRESS, BALLU
STATED THAT THE ACCORD, WHICH "IS NOT BINDING ON THE
CABINDAN PEOPLE," WOULD "COMPROMISE FOREVER FUTURE RELATIONS
BETWEEN CABINDA AND ITALY." THE RELEASE CITED AN ALLEGED
ENI PAYMENT OF USDOLS 400 MILLION OF ROYALTIES TO THE
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LUANDA GOVERNMENT (MPLA), AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE IN GULF

OIL'S DECISION TO SUSPEND ROYALTY PAYMENTS. NEWSPAPERS CARRIED AS WELL ENI'S DENIAL THAT ANY NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS MUCH LESS THAT ANY ACCORD HAS BEEN SIGNED. ENI HAS, ACCORDING TO PRESS STATEMENT, "SIMPLY SENT AN OB-

SERVER AT THE INVITATION OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT TO BE ABLE CONSEQUENTLY TO KEEP THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT INFORMED."

2. ENI REP CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT ENI HAD IN FACT SENT AN OBSERVER TO CABINDA, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT NOTHING CONCRETE HAD TAKEN PLACE. HE DECLINED TO ELABORATE FURTHER. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AFRICA OFFICE DIRECTOR CUENO SAID THAT THE MFA HAD RECEIVED NO RPT NO INFORMATION YET FROM THE LATEST ENI CONTACT AND INDICATED THAT VARIOUS ITALIAN FIRMS, INCLUDING ENI AND FIAT, HAD SENT OBSERVERS TO ANGOLA ON THE BASIS OF CONTACTS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS ANGOLAN FACTIONS DURING 1975 ITALIAN COMMFBB IIRS.(#) CUENO WENT ON TO PLACE THE ENI AND OTHER COMPANY CONTACTS WITH ANGOLA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF NORMAL COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. HE STATED THAT THE FRENCH, BASED IN CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE, APPEAR TO HAVE THE BEST PROSPECTS, BUT THE BELGIANS AND OTHERS ARE ACTIVE AS WELL. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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